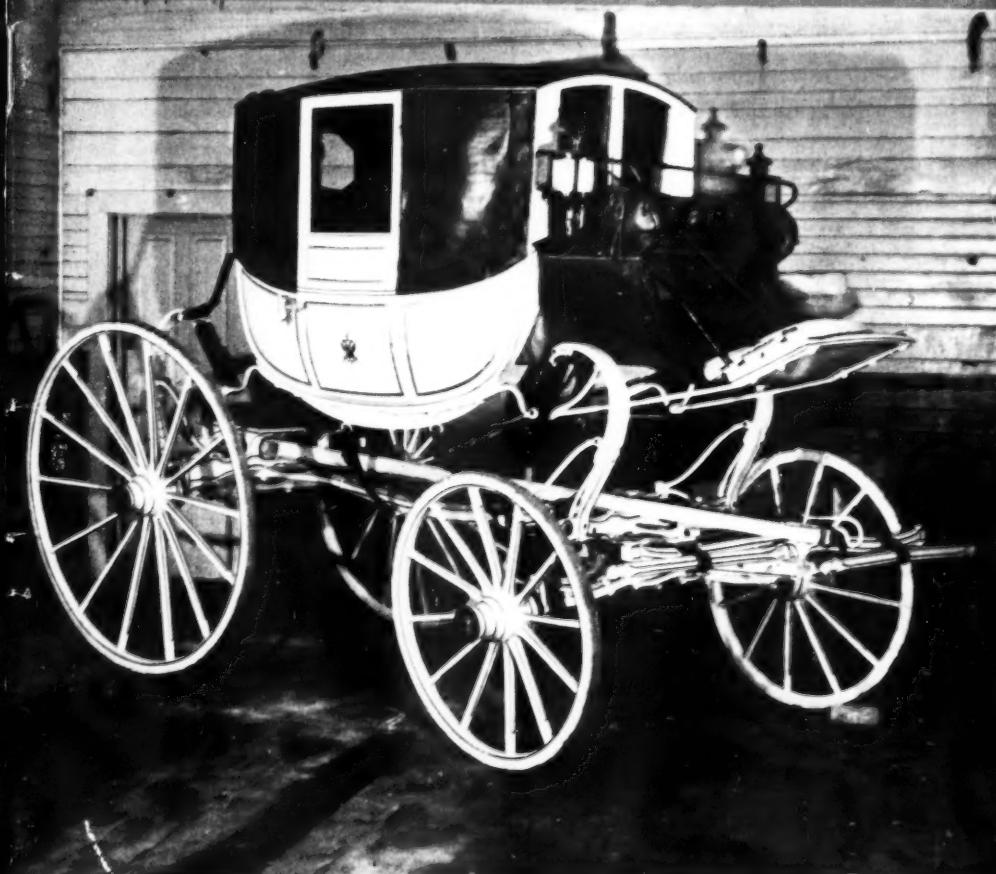


# RHODE ISLAND HISTORY

VOL. 12, NO. 1

JANUARY, 1953



JAMES DEWOLF'S COACH  
[see inside front cover]

THE RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

JAMES DEWOLF'S COACH . . . . .	Cover
THE RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY: AN APPRAISAL . . . . .	1
by Earle W. Newton	
THE 131ST ANNUAL MEETING . . . . .	12
REPORT OF DIRECTOR . . . . .	15
William G. Roelker	
BRIG ARKANSAS OF PROVIDENCE . . . . .	16
Gift of Miss Harriet C. Edmonds	
BARK BEAVER OF PROVIDENCE LEAVING MARSEILLES, 1842 . . . . .	17
Gift of Miss Harriet C. Edmonds	
REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN, 1952 . . . . .	17
Clifford Philip Monahon	
BOOK REVIEWS . . . . .	19
TWO EARLY NEW ENGLAND CAPTAINS OF THE HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY . . . . .	20
by G. Andrews Moriarty	
FIRST BAPTIST MEETING HOUSE . . . . .	24
Reproduction of daguerreotype	
NEWS-NOTES . . . . .	25
TROUBLE AT THE CUSTOM HOUSE — 1790 . . . . .	28
OFFICERS OF THE RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY . . . . .	29
REPORT OF THE TREASURER, 1952 . . . . .	30
Harold H. Kelly	
ACCESSIONS . . . . .	32
LECTURE PROGRAM . . . . .	Inside Back Cover
NEW MEMBERS . . . . .	Back Cover

JAMES DEWOLF'S COACH

Photograph by Laurence E. Tilley

Courtesy of Russell G. Colt

James DeWolf (1764-1837) of Bristol, one of the leading merchants and ship owners of his day, served as United States Senator from Rhode Island between 1821 and 1825. On his journeys between his native town and Washington he traveled in his own coach, which is still preserved at his home, Linden Place, in Bristol. This fine mansion is now the home of Senator DeWolf's descendant, Mr. Russell G. Colt.

# RHODE ISLAND HISTORY

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## THE RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY AN APPRAISAL

by EARLE W. NEWTON\*

AN APPRAISAL of a well-established, highly reputable historical institution is a difficult job under any circumstances. And it can be done only within a given frame of reference. What does the speaker believe about history and the historian? What does he therefore feel the role of the historical society must be?

Therefore, I want to begin by examining first the real meaning of history for the contemporary citizen—Mr. Average Man.

It is true, as we have always contended, that history serves a useful function as an inspiration to noble thoughts, to great deeds. But history does more than this, for it is the record of man, his development, and his character; it is the record of the way he goes about existing in the society of other men; it is the record of social processes and how they operate, and above all, how they affect you and me, as well as the rest of the world, in our everyday life.

History, then, is a *tool*, and should be used as such in our approach to contemporary problems. We live in a democratic society, where public opinion controls the affairs of state. The preservation of that democratic society demands, therefore, not only willingness to shoulder a gun for its defense on the battlefield, but also the development of intelligence and civic interest in the problems of community, state, and nation. To assume that we can assess intelligently (as we must in a democracy) complicated political, economic, and social problems, without a knowledge of their origin and of the workings of the multitudinous factors which entered into the making of them—that is to presume an absurdity.

\*This is a lecture given by Mr. Newton, director of Old Sturbridge Village and editor of *American Heritage*, at the annual meeting, September 24, 1952.

2 *The Rhode Island Historical Society—An Appraisal* [January

We cannot make intelligent decisions even in daily life without constant reference to experience (which is but another word for history). Much less can we do it in weighty questions of the public weal.

But the important thing to note is that history, used as a tool, looks forward into the future even while it records the past. History is a mighty stream flowing out of the past, through the present, and into the future. It takes only a split second for the contemporary to become history. Yes, if I had to take my eyes off the future in order to become a historian, I should never have entered the trade. In truth, history is an inspiration from the past; but more than that, it is a tool for tomorrow.

My chief grudge against my own profession is that it has produced too many reactionaries—people with their eyes glued on the past, even though their feet are obviously placed in the present. It might seem that the study of the past would naturally breed just that sort. But I say that they have misread history. Otherwise, how could they have missed the *one* incontestable fact about history—that the world changes, yes, that man himself is of his own free will one of the chief instigators of that change, and that he must inevitably change with it or perish? How could historians have failed to see that change is the fundamental essence of history?

I think I can tell you how. They saw history not as a continuous stream with many sources, but purely as a record of heroes and of great achievement. The more they dwelt upon these men of the past, and upon their alleged perfect integrity, superior insight, and uncommon common sense, the more they fell into blind hero worship. They consequently tended to see in the past a golden age of wisdom and adventure, never to be hoped for amongst the drab realities of an uninspired present. The final bar of judgment for all contemporary actions, proposals, and opinions came to be the lives of the heroes, and the criteria for excellence in the present came to be genealogical descent from them, or failing that, at least unquestioning adherence to their quoted word.

The real values of history, then, lie in its usefulness as a social tool—it tells us certain things that we need to know to be loyal citizens, good neighbors, intelligent voters in a democratic society, and stable, well-rounded individuals.

We become loyal citizens under the inspiration of the sacrifice and achievement of our forebears. But even more important, we become intelligent citizens because of our understanding of the social processes which control our destinies and we become good neighbors because we gain tolerance and humility as well as understanding of human differences and appreciation of the contributions of all races, creeds, and colors. In the cold light of historical analysis, racial prejudice, social snobbery, and economic oppression seem not only wicked but petty. We learn humility also as we discover that the heroes of the past were humans with frailties equal to those of contemporary leaders.

Finally, from the study of history we become more stable, well-rounded individuals; because from it, as from nothing else, we gain perspective, and more than that, equanimity in the face of change, which is sometimes distasteful to our fondest preconceptions.

If the meaning of contemporary life lies in careful, critical appraisal of the past, what must be the character of patriotism based on history? Surely loyal citizenship, intelligent voting, tolerance and understanding, and balanced individualism are prerequisites of the patriot. If critical history is a prime factor in stimulating these qualities, as I believe it is, then the study of history is the mark of a true patriot. But notice that I say the *study* of history, not blind allegiance to it without critical analysis. I well know that this tool for a better tomorrow is a two-edged sword, which can either clear the path or can bar the way to a brighter future. Indeed, I will say that we have much to fear from the blind patriot, the flag waver who knows nothing of the nation which it symbolizes.

With this as my fundamental faith, then, I cannot but feel that our historical societies must justify their existence by a critical approach to the past, letting the chips fall where they may; and that our patriotic societies, whose reason for existence lies in a claim upon history, must do more than merely establish a line of genealogical ascent out of the past. We cannot rest upon the laurels of our ancestors. The true test of our patriotism is our willingness to cut the pattern of the future not from the image of the past, but from the necessities of the present—and to do it with a critical analysis of human needs.

If history is the way to do this, who is better suited to advance

4 *The Rhode Island Historical Society—An Appraisal* [January  
this approach to the complicated problems of our day than societies  
whose avowed aim is the promotion of true patriotism and whose  
chief means is the method of history? We must become active groups,  
learning things, doing things, and above all, in our own field, making  
the past work for the present.

That being the case, the obligation falls back even more upon the historical society—certainly in the field of adult education. If our college and university professors are not going to concern themselves as extensively as they ought with the interpretation of history to the general public, certainly our historical societies must. Other than the colleges, who seem reluctant to undertake adult education responsibilities, they are the chief agency in this field. Their audience, of course, is the general public, for if our historical societies talk only to a limited few, they will gain support only from a limited few. How do we get at the wider public audience? Of course we reach it through the standard media of public communication—radio, the newspaper, motion pictures, audio-visual means of all sorts—through standard things which people are accustomed to and from which they normally gain their information. By using these media with intelligence we can take the message drawn from our authentic, scholarly material and carry it to a much wider audience than we could in any other possible way.

The historical society faced with this obligation must look ahead, must broaden its basis of membership, its basis of operation, its fundamental basis of thought. It is not that our historical societies have not done a good job in the past; they have. We cannot overlook the importance of these laboriously accumulated materials which are the only basis for our understanding of the past. But times have changed; times are constantly changing. We are in a new age, a new age of public education where all our institutions have new and broader obligations. The new and broader obligation of the historical society is to take the material which it accumulates in its stacks, in its archives, in its microfilms, and interpret those materials to a broader audience. In the case of the state historical society that audience is for the most part the people of its state.

In a sense the state is the laboratory in the field of social sciences. Just as the natural scientist examines local, special phenomena in his laboratory before he draws wide general conclusions, so does the

historian examine things very carefully on an intimate local scale before he draws wide general conclusions on the national scale. Or, at least, he should.

Unfortunately, our American history has been written too extensively on a purely national basis. We now are finding that many of the broad generalizations previously accepted must be corrected; that these many local and regional variations vitiate many an elaborate thesis which has been established on the basis of broad generalizations. The result is that we have to rewrite American history constantly because these laboratory examinations have proved that the broad generalizations were not sufficiently well-rooted in fact.

The Rhode Island Historical Society has a multitude of valuable resources, of priceless assets which have come down to it from the past. The richness of its resources makes it difficult to make an appraisal.

There are first of all, of course, its invaluable collections of manuscripts and newspapers—probably the most complete collection in the United States pertaining to an individual state. Collections such as these are not readily come by. These are things that not every historical society has, and they make this Society unusually rich in source material. Moreover the Society has a tradition, which makes it possible for it to do many things that a brand new organization could not tackle because it does not have public confidence, because it does not have the roots, the traditions that a society as old and reputable as this one has. To these two great assets, within the last ten years, has been added a great accession—the John Brown House, a mansion of great distinction, a perfect setting for this kind of activity.

To all of this has been added, in this same period, the incomparable asset of loyal and devoted personnel, men who could not be bought to do this kind of thing for any price if they were not devoted to it, if they were not imbued with the same kind of philosophy, the same kind of interest in history that I have tried to set forth in these paragraphs. These are assets that cannot be acquired in a day and certainly have not been.

Then you have also an already organized program, as set forth in the Director's annual reports and in his intermediate notes in the quarterly. There are many activities which take place in this room,

6 *The Rhode Island Historical Society—An Appraisal* [January

one in the form of a distinguished lecture series. There is also your publication *Rhode Island History*, which is a handsomely designed, well-written, scholarly publication. These things are definite and permanent assets which have come from the past over a long period and which have been greatly enriched within this last decade.

As a result of these factors and primarily as a result of the people who administer this Society for you, your income has increased from less than \$7,000 to \$30,000—more than four times—and your membership has quadrupled in a period of only ten years.

These are remarkable achievements. When one is called upon to make an appraisal, one must start from these very significant achievements. I am amazed that so few have done so much. That, I think, is your main problem: you have too small a staff and, as the Society has grown, too little space. That must be obvious to anyone who has gone through this building and seen the growing collections of Rhode Island furniture, of portraits, and other museum items; the constantly expanding library (libraries never grow smaller; they only grow larger), and all the other things which are required to be housed in this physical structure in order to make an active, functioning historical society.

Your staff has done wonderful things, and it has done it under great handicaps. It is surprising, for example, that with only part-time maintenance help, this building could have such a spruce appearance. Examining the resources of the library, it is amazing to see so much material cataloged and ready—even though I am sure the librarian will hasten to emphasize that the vast uncataloged resources of the library must be made more conveniently available to the user.

Actually most of the Society's difficulties revolve around these problems of space and personnel. The library requires more space; and as the museum grows, it too will require space; Mr. Roelker has not been hesitant in mentioning this fact. Probably the solution is in the construction of an additional wing to this building—or of a separate building—to house the library. Library stacks require a functional structure. The present building was not built for a library, and is not suited for such a purpose. It has been utilized to reasonably good advantage, but with so many windows and doors, and with the fine mantels and fireplaces, the wonderful statuary, and the excellent

woodwork all around it, there is very little wall space left for book cases. You had to face the problem of trying to fit this historical society with all its multitudinous functions into what is basically a historic house.

The problem of personnel is even more urgent because you could continue to operate within this physical structure, cramped for space as the personnel is, but I cannot see how you can carry out the kind of program which the historical society must undertake without additional personnel. The director has the responsibility (and it is a time-consuming one) for basic policy, public relations, and finances of this Society. It is he who must be responsible for "everything." He must not only do certain tasks which are his own, but he must see that the staff members do their tasks well and that the tasks are properly integrated. It is a mistake to expect that a director can carry out many specific functions in the face of his general responsibilities.

The librarian now has many auxiliary functions which should not be his. In some way or another those auxiliary activities must be assigned to somebody else so that he can devote himself entirely to library work.

The Society has a research associate. This is an essential position because it is not sufficient merely to gather historical materials; it is necessary also to interpret them. And even to the scholar they must be interpreted, and a research associate is a tremendous help in doing this kind of thing. As the public becomes more conscious of the activities of the Society, more and more people will turn to it for services of this kind.

The Society receives innumerable calls from educational institutions, from state agencies, from radio and television studios, from newspapers, from all kinds of organizations that find historical materials essential to their work. If the Rhode Island Historical Society is to be a service agency, these people must be served, and their questions must be answered authentically and intelligently. The Society must be on sound ground at all times, backed up by authentic and careful research behind each statement.

The present activities of the Society are largely in the field of lectures and meetings. These activities have been important, and the results are reflected in your membership. The historical and patriotic societies which meet here think of this as a second home—perhaps a

first one—if they have no real home of their own. Their members inevitably become interested in the Historical Society, and they often become members and in turn they secure other members from among their friends.

This is a means of extending the Society's influence to the broader public and has been carried out with great distinction. One has only to look at the lecture series to see the valuable material which has been made available to sizable audiences. But the one thing which you have been unable to do for lack of physical facilities or for lack of staff is to reach the much larger audience, which cannot be compressed into a small room.

This means that if the Historical Society is going to reach the general public, it must use the standard media of public communication: books, magazines, radio, television, motion pictures, newspapers, and so forth.

In the radio field you can undoubtedly gain cooperation from a college or local theatre group to put on a series of dramatizations of Rhode Island history. A local sponsor can usually be obtained; if not, the radio station will almost always put it on public service time, if it is well done.

For books your first need is a popular, color-illustrated, brightly written history of the state perhaps to be incorporated in the *American States Series*, sponsored by the American Association for State and Local History. A volume of this kind will have widespread appeal and large sales. It can pay for itself easily.

It is a project which certainly should appeal to your General Assembly if they have any sense of state loyalty or state patriotism because a good state history is very important in the public school system and is also very important in terms of keeping Rhode Islanders informed with respect to their own background, their own heritage, their own history.

The Society also needs a magazine which will go to a wider public audience. I would not recommend trying to popularize *Rhode Island History* because you need a scholarly magazine. But certainly the Rhode Island Historical Society, out of its present resources, cannot sponsor a color-illustrated quarterly of the type of *American Heritage*, because such a magazine is a costly proposition, but in cooperation with other agencies it might be done. The new Rhode Island De-

velopment Council is already considering the possibility of a color-illustrated quarterly magazine on Rhode Island and might welcome joint sponsorship. Why not catch them before they get out a strictly recreational or promotional magazine and help them make it a substantial magazine, well-rooted in Rhode Island backgrounds? Why not set it up on such a basis that the controlling factor in the magazine is not just the Rhode Island Development Council but also the Rhode Island Historical Society?

Why not look into the field of motion pictures? Here again the state might assist as it did in Vermont. The state needs in its promotional activities a good film which can be circulated widely, which will tell the public outside of Rhode Island what Rhode Island is like and why people should wish to come here. There is no better way of attracting visitors than to give a true story, an accurate and sympathetic picture of how Rhode Island began and why it is the way it is today. Such a picture could be done in cooperation with the new Rhode Island Development Council or with an agency such as the University of Rhode Island. There are many institutions working in the field of films. One might even find an industry or a corporation which as a public service activity would want to make such a film. There must be in Rhode Island many companies whose real home is here, who feel that they have roots in Rhode Island, and who could be expected to produce documentary films as has been done in other states.

These proposals are not mere theory because all of these things have been done in just such a situation as this. Vermont is a small state like Rhode Island and relatively impoverished. At the Vermont Historical Society we had to do everything on a shoestring. We had fewer facilities, fewer resources, than you have today. But by mobilizing similar outside agencies, by getting special support for special projects, we were able to produce a weekly radio program, and we were able to publish a magazine which ended up by making friends with a quarter of a million people rather than just our thousand members. We were able to make a motion picture which went into general circulation and which was so liked by the State Department that they translated it into many foreign languages and circulated it all around the world.

Such things do not require money alone, though it takes money

10 *The Rhode Island Historical Society—An Appraisal* [January

to do them. First of all such things require a well-thought-out program plus support from other sources, not necessarily in the form of miscellaneous general funds to build up your own operating revenue or your own endowment, but specific funds for specific products which appeal to specific organizations or persons for specific reasons. These must supplement, of course, the broad fund raising which is a necessity for the general operations of your Society. No bank or insurance company is going to pay your running expenses. These expenses have to be paid out of the income from endowment, the support from the state, and the support given by private people in the form of dues and donations.

The field of university relationships is one which could be further explored. I am sure that already there have been established substantial relationships of a cooperative nature. I should like to see the faculties of all institutions of higher education in Rhode Island taking a more active role in the Rhode Island Historical Society. I should like to see the Rhode Island Historical Society cooperating with them to produce and teach courses in New England and Rhode Island history. This can be done on a cooperative basis, and again I believe the funds to do it can be procured from other agencies, in this case the college. You must sell the people in charge of these agencies, who already have many other responsibilities, on the idea that here is something which is basic to their program, and which they should undertake.

Obviously all this kind of thing cannot be done by the already overburdened staff of your Historical Society. You cannot overload them beyond a certain point, although it looks as though that point has already been passed. Consequently, the first need of this Society is a director of education or a director of public relations. Such a person would have the responsibility of developing a new program under the supervision of the director and with the assistance of the librarian and the research associate. Educational programs while they may be financed and while they may be supported and aided by these outside organizations, must have one person to control them, to organize them, to see that things get done, to keep things in the appropriate channels; and only one person—only a person who has the basic spark and preferably the experience in this kind of work—can undertake such a program.

It is not the role of an outsider to say in what specific ways funds might be raised for the general or for the specific work of this Society. Basically that is the memberships' responsibility. I am perfectly well aware that it is very easy for me to come in here and to tell you all kinds of fine things you can do. Probably you have heard about them from your director. It is more difficult to put new ideas into operation than it is to talk about them. We have to pay for the things that we do. It takes good hard, cold cash to finance these programs, and it's got to come from somewhere. But if you undertake a program which reaches a wider audience, then the public will get behind you. The membership will go up, and you will get more dues. But that is actually the less significant part of it. You will engender a whole new psychology. You will find a greater increase in bequests and gifts which come in, surprisingly, because somebody has remembered you in their will without your even knowing that they were particularly interested in the Rhode Island Historical Society. But perhaps even more than that it will be reflected indirectly through the General Assembly, which is representative of the people of the state—your audience.

The Society has the right to expect more support from the state than it now receives. Furthermore I would not be fearful of that support. I do not think you wish to be a state agency; I do not think the Rhode Island Historical Society can afford to be subjected to the necessary political controls that all state agencies have in a democratic society. In government, which is set up under our American system on a political basis, offices change as policies change; and policies change as voters change their minds. The Rhode Island Historical Society as a scholarly, educational institution must keep up with the natural change of history, but it should not reflect the rapid changes of political life. I cannot see how an increase by the state of the appropriation to the Rhode Island Historical Society would involve any political control. Therefore, seek added support from the state, and seek it without fear. If the Society has done a good job of public education, the need for an increased appropriation will be obvious, and the justification for it will be clear. There will then be no question of entangling alliances with political implications.

Results will not be immediate; yet the expanded program has to be undertaken immediately. Therefore, you should seek immediate

support within a period of six months—or at most a year—from persons whom you believe to have faith enough in your Society to give specific donations for a development fund of at least ten thousand dollars to carry this Society into its expanded program until this cycle arrives at the point where it begins to produce again in terms of added income. Or if you cannot raise that money, though I feel sure it can be done, then take it from your reserve funds. The income from ten thousand dollars today is only five hundred dollars. You might well risk the loss of five hundred dollars from your income for the indefinite future in order to have ten thousand dollars to work with over the next two years. If that ten thousand dollars is thus invested, it will bring back far, far more than that missing five hundred dollars of income. I am sure it will bring back thousands. This is a situation which a businessman can appreciate: the age old necessity of spending a dollar to earn a dollar. The Society is faced with that decision, and the decision must be made immediately.

I appreciate very much the opportunity of giving you a few comments tonight. I have not gone into great detail because I would be presumptuous. I do not know your operations in that intimate detail. What I am doing is offering you a challenge to take a new look at the kind of Society you want to be. Then, if you wish it to be an institution of public education, decide to make it one. Decide you are going to make a given sacrifice now in the firm belief that it will bring you back increased dividends in the future.

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#### THE 131st ANNUAL MEETING

THE 131st ANNUAL MEETING of the Rhode Island Historical Society was held at John Brown House on September 17, 1952. For lack of a quorum the meeting was adjourned until September 24, 1952. When the meeting reconvened, with one hundred members present, President Westcote H. Chesebrough presided.

The Secretary read the call of the meeting and declared a quorum to be present. The minutes of the meeting held on September 17 were read and approved. Upon motion the reading of the minutes of the 130th Annual Meeting was omitted as they had been published in the January, 1952, issue of *Rhode Island History*.

Mr. Harold H. Kelly, Treasurer, reported briefly on the finances of the Society, and said that a more complete statement would be published in the *History*.

Mr. William G. Roelker reported for the Membership Committee a net gain of 63 members, bringing the total membership of the Society to 1,516.

Mr. Albert E. Lownes of the Library Committee announced that the report of his committee was included in the Librarian's report to be presented later.

Mr. Roelker reported for the Lecture Committee that eight meetings of the Society were held with a total attendance of 675. In addition 2,105 others used John Brown House for meetings during the year.

For the Publication Committee, in the absence of Paul C. Nicholson, Sr., Mr. Roelker reported that four issues of the Society's quarterly, *Rhode Island History*, were published during the year and that *The Correspondence of Governor Samuel Ward*, edited by Bernhard Knollenberg, was published in March.

Mr. Frederick P. Austin, Jr., Chairman of the Committee on Grounds and Buildings, told of the successful campaign to preserve the trees surrounding John Brown House and said that routine maintenance of the house was being carried out.

As the members stood in respect, Mrs. Axel A. Christensen, of the Committee on Necrology, read the names of those members who had died since the last annual meeting.

Mr. Roelker, in the absence of Harry B. Freeman of the Finance Committee, said that the value of our portfolio as of June 30, 1952, was \$151,923.50 with an estimated annual income of \$6,841.50.

Mr. Henry B. Cross, Chairman of the Audit Committee, reported a thorough and satisfactory audit of the Society's records during the year.

Mr. Chesebrough, in his annual address, called attention to the report of the Finance Committee in which it was pointed out that

no new money was received by the Society for principal investment either by bequests or gifts during the year. The President said that the Society must have the active support of all its members if it is to continue to fulfill its responsibilities.

Mrs. T. I. Hare Powel, Chairman, presented the report of the Nominating Committee, and there being no counter nominations, the secretary was instructed to cast one ballot for the slate as read. The ballot having been cast, the nominees were declared elected.

Mr. M. Randolph Flather, the new president, presented a brief address in which he told of his appreciation of the honor of his being elected president and expressed his hope that the Society would progress in the future as successfully as it has in the past.

Mr. Addison P. Monroe then presented the following resolution which was unanimously adopted.

Inasmuch as Mr. Westcote H. Chesebrough is, at this time, retiring from the presidency of the Rhode Island Historical Society, it seems appropriate and fitting that the members extend their thanks and sincere appreciation to him for his able and efficient administration as the executive officer of the Society.

Not only as President but also a former Assistant Secretary and as a member of the Committee which drafted the Constitution under which the Society is now functioning, and in many other ways, he has contributed largely to the success and welfare of the organization. Now therefore be it

***RESOLVED*** — That the Members of the Rhode Island Historical Society in its 131st Annual Meeting assembled extend thanks and appreciation to the retiring President, Westcote H. Chesebrough, Esq., for this able and conscientious performance of the duties connected with that office, and trust they will continue to enjoy the benefit of his sound and valued advice in the future activities of the Society. And be it further

***RESOLVED*** — That this resolution be entered in the minutes of this meeting and a copy of the same be forwarded to Mr. Chesebrough.

There being no new business, the President then introduced the speaker of the evening, Earle W. Newton, director of Old Sturbridge Village.

At the conclusion of the lecture the meeting was adjourned, and coffee was served.

Respectfully submitted,

IVORY LITTLEFIELD, JR.

*Secretary*

**REPORT OF DIRECTOR**

COMMITTEE REPORTS have covered all essential points in the history of this past busy and constructive year. I want, however, to add a word.

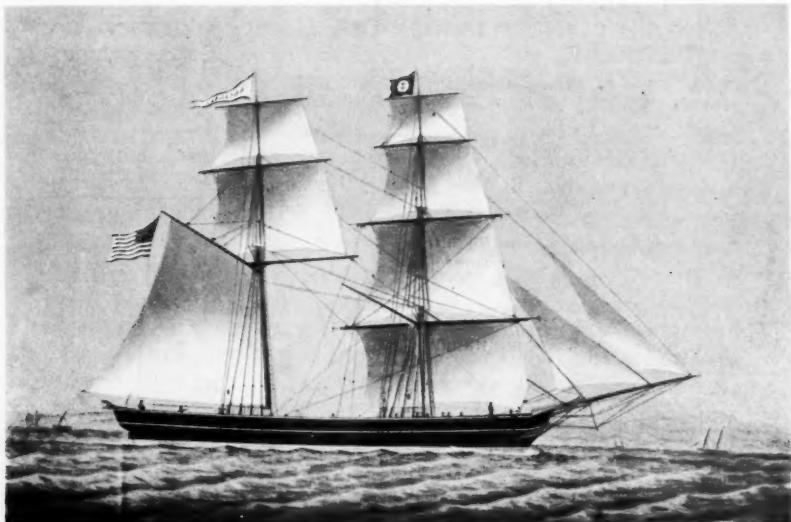
Institutions like the Rhode Island Historical Society live by *faith* and not on *figures*. By that I mean that oftentimes it is necessary for such an organization to anticipate the future, to make improvements in buildings, to make additions, to make purchases for the library, and to increase salaries when the necessary money is not at hand.

If we had waited to find the money before we made up our minds to move from the Cabinet on Waterman Street to John Brown House, we would still be there. After a careful study we came to the conclusion that if once we moved and set up business at John Brown House, the public would respond to such an extent that we would be able to support the more expensive operation. This judgment has paid off. The Society now has nearly three times as many members as we had before moving. Our capital resources are twice as large, and we are well and favorably known throughout the community—in fact, we are so well-known that we are besieged by requests on all sides for information and advice and recently the state of Rhode Island has been leaning on us very heavily.

In my opinion the time has now arrived when we must make another major decision. It has been necessary to provide a moderate increase in salaries in an attempt to keep them in line with the rising cost of living. Without a satisfied and efficient staff, such an institution as ours cannot function.

The next step will be the construction of a separate library building. For some time we thought that our first need was for an auditorium or lecture room, but now we have come to the conclusion that the library is of first importance in order to get all of our books into a functional building where the library may be operated more efficiently, less expensively than it is now. To that end studies are now being made as to how much space will be necessary and what the ultimate cost may be. We are now thinking of locating it north of John Brown House with entrances from Charles Field Street.

This idea may shock some of our members, but your director's feeling is that this should be a completely modern building; that is



Gift of Miss Harriet C. Edmonds

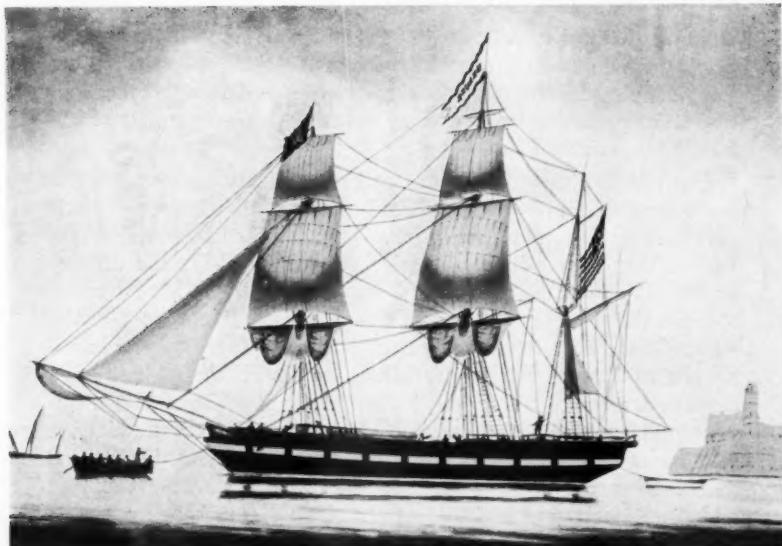
**BRIG ARKANSAS OF PROVIDENCE**

Commanded by John Edmonds, 1837-38

to say, in no sense an imitation of the Georgian or other architecture. Perhaps it should even be built of steel and glass. However, all of this is still in the future, and it will be some time before we can raise the necessary money and work out our plans.

In closing let me thank the staff and Mrs. Monahon for their devoted and loyal service during the past year. I look forward to many years of progress under my guidance, and I want once again to express my belief that this organization must progress on faith.

**WILLIAM GREENE ROELKER**



Gift of Miss Harriet C. Edmonds

**BARK BEAVER OF PROVIDENCE**

Leaving Marseilles, 1842

**REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN**

1952

MR. PRESIDENT, officers and members of the Rhode Island Historical Society, this is my seventh annual librarian's report.

If the past year has been successful, it is because our library is being used, and because the library staff has endeavored to serve all who come to it to the best of their ability. Mr. Collins has been

especially helpful in this respect; I know that the part he plays in helping scholars in their work is one of his chief rewards. It is a source of pleasure to us all that our Society is so rich in its collections that scholars turn to us when they are embarked on projects of historical research.

Our richness is not a static one and almost daily we are adding to our resources, and we wish to express our gratitude to the many persons who throughout the year have made gifts to our collections. In speaking of a gift in the July issue of *Rhode Island History* Bradford F. Swan of the Library Committee wrote, "What is beyond a doubt the most important single acquisition in the history of the Rhode Island Historical Society occurred this spring when the Providence City Council voted to transfer to the Society's custody the vast collection, mostly manuscripts, known as the Providence Town Papers." This gift alone makes the year a memorable one. In addition we acquired an account book kept by Stephen Hopkins, 1746-1757, and another by Godfrey Malbone of Newport, 1729-1736. We added an interesting log, that of the sloop *Roby*, kept by Joseph Crawford of Providence in 1758. It would be impossible to list the manuscripts that were added to the collection this year. That you may know that letters of prime importance are still available, I might mention the acquisition of a William Ellery and a Stephen Hopkins letter.

The museum received a communion service of the Liberty Church of Exeter as well as a Connecticut secretary and several other pieces of furniture from the late Franklin R. Cushman and his sister Julia D. Cushman.

The genealogical section of the library continues to be widely used. In this department it is worth while to note the purchase of a microcard reader and the acquisition of microcards. A microcard is, according to *The Microcard Bulletin of June, 1948*, "simply standard size (7½ x 12½ cm.) library catalog cards having on them not only a catalog entry in more or less the usual form but also, in greatly reduced microprint, the complete text of the book . . ." Many of the items in the library of microcards are indexed in *The American Genealogical Index*, making a vast amount of information available to the genealogical searcher.

At present all but one of the Rhode Island daily newspapers are

being received currently on microfilm. These include the *Providence Journal*, the *Evening Bulletin*, *Newport Daily News*, *Westerly Sun*, *Woonsocket Call*, *Pawtucket Times*, and the weekly *Newport Mercury*. The *Westerly Sun* and the *Woonsocket Call* are engaged in a program of microfilming their back issues, a project deserving the commendation of all interested in preserving this source of local history.

After being with the Society for nearly five years, Miss Catherine Grady accepted a position in the Providence School Department. Many friends miss her, and we of the staff were sorry to have her go. I wish to express my thanks to all who helped me during the year past. Members of the Library Committee have been cooperative, and to them I am especially indebted. With their support and the interest of our friends, I look forward to the coming year.

CLIFFORD PHILIP MONAHON

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#### BOOK REVIEWS

*Science and Technology in Providence, 1760-1914: An Essay in the History of Brown University in the Metropolitan Community.* By Donald Fleming. (Brown University Papers, No. 26.) Providence, 1952. 54 pp.

In this brief study Professor Fleming traces the progress of science and technology at Brown and its relationship to the welfare of the community at large.

In its first decades Brown offered instruction in the sciences comparable to—and in some respects, far in advance of—that given in other American colleges. After 1800, perhaps in response to the growing industrialization of the Providence area, greater emphasis was placed on the practical applications of science. In this period a medical school was established, which flourished for a time, but changes in administrative procedure and in academic philosophy cut its career short. During President Wayland's "reform administration" science languished on the Hill, but after the Civil War a revival took place. Eminent scientists were brought to the faculty and a fresh and distinguished renaissance occurred. Although technological advances were not overlooked, stress was placed on pure science.

In telling of these ups and downs, Dr. Fleming has recorded a story of more than local concern, for Brown's achievements—and her mistakes, too—had consequences which reached far out into the wider world. It is a story of men and of action, fascinating in itself and important in its broader implications.

ALBERT E. LOWNES

Providence

[continued on p. 27]

## TWO EARLY NEW ENGLAND CAPTAINS OF THE HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY

by G. ANDREWS MORIARTY, A.M., LL.B., F.A.S.G., F.S.A.

THE EARLY RECORDS of the Hudson's Bay Company, which go back to 1668, (the Company is the oldest chartered company in England) have recently been printed by The Champlain Society of Toronto. They show among the Company's earliest captains two New England men, Capt. Zachariah Gillam from Boston and Capt. Esbon Sanford from Portsmouth, Rhode Island.

Capt. Zachariah Gillam was born in Boston on 30 Sept. 1636, the son of Benjamin Gillam, a shipwright and merchant of that town, and his wife Anna or Hannah. He married on 26 July 1659 Phoebe, daughter by his first wife Mary of Major William Phillips, a wealthy Boston merchant who, on account of his dislike of the Massachusetts theocracy, removed to Saco in the Province of Maine, where he owned a large tract of wilderness land in the back part of the towns of Saco and Wells. The present town of Sanford now occupies a part of this holding. Capt. Gillam had three children born in Boston; namely, Martha, born 2 June 1660; Zachariah, born 4 Nov. 1661; and Benjamin, born 23 March 1663. A daughter Mary died in Boston on 14 Aug. 1661. Capt. Gillam was still in Boston on 8 Sept. 1665. He had been the captain of a vessel, which carried Thomas Etherington and his wife from Newichewannok (Maine) to Boston. They both had died on the voyage.<sup>1</sup> Soon afterwards he removed to London and was the captain of the *Nonsuch*, one of the first vessels sent by the Company to Hudson's Bay in 1668. He passed the winter of 1668-9 at Charles Fort and returned to England shortly before 11 Oct. 1669 with a rich cargo of beaver.<sup>2</sup> As a result of the success of this voyage Charles II granted the Company, which was headed by Prince Rupert, a charter on 2 May 1670.<sup>3</sup>

Capt. Esbon Sanford was born at Portsmouth, Rhode Island, on 25 Jan. 1645-6, the son of President John Sanford of Portsmouth and his second wife, Bridget, daughter of William and Anne Hutchinson. John Sanford, as the Winthrop Papers show, had been in the

<sup>1</sup> N. E. Hist. and Gen. Register, v. xvi, pp. 162-163.

<sup>2</sup> Genealogist's Magazine, June 1950, p. 523.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*

employ of the Winthrop family in England. He came over with John Winthrop, Jr., in the summer of 1631 and was made a member of the Boston Church that same year. On 3 April 1632 he was admitted a Freeman of the Colony. Soon after his arrival, apparently in 1632, he married Elizabeth ("Bess") Webb, sister of Henry Webb, a prominent Boston merchant and an early benefactor of Harvard, who came from Salisbury in Wiltshire to Boston in or about 1637. Elizabeth Webb had also been in the household of John Winthrop, Jr., and had come over at the same time as John Sanford in 1631. They had doubtless met when they were with the Winthrops in Suffolk. John and Elizabeth Sanford had two sons: John born in 1633, afterwards prominent in the Rhode Island Colony, and Samuel born in 1635, who was a large planter at Portsmouth, R. I. Elizabeth died about 1635 and John Sanford married secondly, about 1636, Bridget, daughter of William and Anne Hutchinson. They had nine children of whom Capt. Esbon was the sixth.

Soon after his arrival in Boston John Sanford was active in surveying and laying out the land in and around Boston. He also appears to have had some military experience, for in 1634 he was made cannoneer of the fort in Boston harbor and had charge of the military stores. His will shows that he also possessed some armor of the period. It is quite possible that he had met John Winthrop, Jr., in Buckingham's expedition to relieve Rochelle in 1627. In 1636 he was a selectman of Boston. In the Antinomian controversy of 1637 he took the side of his mother-in-law, Anne Hutchinson, and was ordered disarmed on 20 Nov. 1637. He thereupon joined his wife's parents in the purchase of Aquidneck and was one of the founders of the town of Portsmouth, Rhode Island, where he was a prominent citizen. In 1653 he was selected President of the Rhode Island Colony and died that same year in office. Soon after his death his widow married, as his third wife, Major Phillips of Boston and Saco, above referred to, and in this way her son Esbon came into close contact with Capt. Zachariah Gillam, who had married her stepdaughter. Esbon was in Portsmouth on 27 June 1666.<sup>4</sup> He appears to have left Portsmouth before 12 August 1667 and to have gone to England with Capt. Gillam. He was certainly back in Portsmouth on 17 June 1670,

<sup>4</sup>Sanford Papers, p. 10.

when he received a legacy under his father's will,<sup>5</sup> but this is his last appearance in that town.

Esbon also joined the service of the Hudson's Bay Company and passed the winter of 1672-3 at Hudson's Bay as mate of the dogger *Messenger*, Capt. Robert Morris. In 1674-5 he was mate of the *Prince Rupert*, commanded by Capt. Zachariah Gillam, on a voyage to the Bay. He appears to have thereafter left the Company's service, for on 20 Jan. 1680-1 he was negotiating to reenter its employ but could not come to terms, "as he made such extraordinary demands." However, by 3 Feb. 1681-2 they came to an agreement and he was employed for a salary of £60 a year. On 3 March 1681-2 he was given command of the Company's ship *Albemarle* and on 31 May 1682 he was commissioned Deputy Governor of the Company's settlement at Port Nelson and in the event of the death of the Governor, John Bridger, he was to succeed him. On 15 May 1682 he had orders to sail for the Bay in company with Capt. Zachariah Gillam, who commanded the *Prince Rupert*, and to place himself under the orders of Gov. John Bridger. They were to assist in the establishment of the settlement at Port Nelson and then to proceed to Charlton Island, take on cargo and return to England the next year (1683).

Now it happened that Capt. Zachariah Gillam had an elder brother, Capt. Benjamin Gillam, a Boston sea captain, who had married on 26 Oct. 1660 Hannah, daughter of Major Thomas Savage and his first wife, Faith Hutchinson, also a daughter of William and Anne,<sup>6</sup> and just at this time Capt. Benjamin made a poaching voyage to the Bay in the *Bachelor's Delight*. When the news of this reached the Company in London, their wrath was great. Accordingly, in April 1683 they revoked Capt. Sanford's command of the *Albemarle*, and Capt. Zachariah Gillam and he were ordered to return at once in the *Prince Rupert* in ballast. At the same time they secured an order for Edward Randolph, who was setting out for Boston, addressed to Gov. Simon Bradstreet, directing him to arrest Capts. Gillam and Sanford if they should come to Boston. In view of the actual happenings the situation was tragic, for it would appear that both Capt. Zachariah and Capt. Esbon were loyal to the Company's interests. On 21 Oct. 1682 Capt. Zachariah perished, when the *Prince Rupert* was crushed in the ice and Capt. Esbon died

<sup>5</sup> Portsmouth Town Records, p. 326, 405.

<sup>6</sup> Register, *op. cit.* v. lxvii, pp. 200-201.

in the Company's service. On 5 Dec. 1683 Capt. Sanford's salary was ordered paid to his widow Sarah and on 6 Feb. 1683-4 a further gratuity of £3:10:0 was ordered to be paid her as he "had lost his life in the Company's service." There can be little doubt that Capt. Esbon lost his life in the defense of Port Nelson in the attack made upon it at this time by the expedition sent against it by the French at Quebec under the command of Radisson.<sup>7</sup>

On 14 April 1676 Benjamin and Joseph Gillam, executors of their father Benjamin Gillam, Sr., conveyed to their brother Zachary Gillam of London and their sister, Hannah, wife of Richard Sharpe, certain land at Fort Hill in Boston left them by their father. On 22 April 1692 Hannah, widow of Richard Sharpe, conveyed her half to Benjamin Gillam of Boston, son of Capt. Zachariah, and on 14 Oct. 1715 Abigail, widow of the aforesaid Benjamin, and her daughter Abigail, wife of William Tailer, all of Boston, sold this land.<sup>8</sup> After the death of his first wife, Phoebe Phillips, Capt. Zachariah married sometime before 31 Oct. 1672, Judith, daughter of Capt. Benjamin Gosling of Leigh, co. Essex.<sup>9</sup>

In 1732 the heirs of Capt. Zachariah were seeking to recover some of the Phillips land in Maine.<sup>10</sup>

Nothing is known regarding the family of Capt. Esbon Sanford or whom he married, except the fact that his daughter was living in England when his mother, Bridget Phillips, made her will on 29 Sept. 1696, and his daughter is named as a contingent remainderman in the will of her uncle, Gov. Peleg Sanford of Newport, Rhode Island, dated 28 Feb. 1700-1. There is no evidence that she ever came to New England.

<sup>7</sup> Minutes of the Hudson's Bay Company 1679-84, Series 2, 1683-84, ed. The Champlain Soc., Toronto, pp. 333-34; cf. Register *op. cit.*, v. ciii, pp. 212-13.

<sup>8</sup> cf. Register, *op. cit.* xix, p. 254.

<sup>9</sup> Capt. Robert Morris, the same man who commanded the Company's *Messenger* in 1672-3 (see above), wrote to John Winthrop, Jr., 8 Feb. 1667/8 that he was "living in Radcliffe over against the stone taverns" and "that Brother Gostlin was very ill when I went from home and his good wife is dead." Brother Gostlin was a mariner and a cousin of the Winthrops. The will of Benjamin Gosling, mariner, of Leigh, co. Essex, dated 31 Oct. 1672, was proved 6 Oct. 1679. He made a bequest to "daughter Judith, wife of Zachary Gellum." (The Winthrops of Groton, pp. 93-4.) It would appear that Capts. Gillam and Sanford were introduced to the Company by their Capt. Robert Morris, "brother" of Benjamin Gosling.

<sup>10</sup> Gen. Dic. of Me. & N. H., Davis, p. 262.



FIRST BAPTIST MEETING HOUSE  
South Main Street, Providence, R. I.

A hundred years ago a daguerreotype of the First Baptist Meeting House was made for the Rhode Island Historical Society. This print is a reproduction of the daguerreotype made in 1853.

## NEWS—NOTES

At the October meeting of the Rhode Island Historical Society Father Joseph U. Bergkamp spoke on "Religious Liberty in Rhode Island and Maryland." On November 9 Miss Nancy A. Dyer read from Augustus Hoppin's *A Visit to Auton House*, home of the Hoppin family on Westminster Street in Providence. The reading was accompanied by Hoppin's illustrations projected on the screen.

Mr. Roelker spoke to the Women's Advertising Club of Providence on "Rhode Island and John Brown House" on October 1. On October 13 he spoke on "East Greenwich When I Was a Boy" at the forty-fifth anniversary meeting of the Varnum Continentals at their Armory. At Brown University on October 21 Mr. Roelker gave the first lecture in a series on Rhode Island history, sponsored by the State Department of Education for Rhode Island teachers. On December 16 another lecture in the series was given by Mr. Collins. His subject was "The Narragansett Planters." These lectures were recorded and later broadcast over station WPRO.

On October 29 there was a meeting at the State House to discuss a preview of the 1953 tourist season. Mr. Roelker participated in a panel discussion on additional natural and historic sites which can be made available in 1953. Mr. Roelker and Mr. Collins participated on October 31 in a meeting at the Museum of Art of the Rhode Island School of Design called by William H. Cotter of the Division of Parks to discuss the restoration of the Russell mansion in Goddard Park and its possible use as a museum. On November 24 Mr. Roelker gave an address, "The Telephone Comes to East Greenwich," on the occasion of the opening of the new telephone building in East Greenwich.

Mr. Collins spoke to the Roger Williams Family Association on October 2; his talk was "Roger Williams and His Key;" a play was presented by fifteen children entitled "It Happened in Providence." Classes from Lincoln School, Wheeler School, and Aldrich High School have also visited John Brown House for a lecture and tour by Mr. Collins. He has also spoken to the Warwick Sunshine Club at the Old Warwick League Library and to the Warwick Historical Society at John Brown House.

The National Society of Autograph Collectors, New England

Chapter, held a meeting in Providence October 25. The Rhode Island Historical Society and Brown University acted as hosts.

The Pottery and Porcelain Club held meetings on October 22 and November 26: Mrs. Wentworth Bacon lectured on "German Porcelains—Early Meissen" and Miss Huldah M. Smith gave a koda-slide talk on "French and German Porcelains."

A number of other organizations have held meetings at John Brown House. The General Greene Memorial Association held its annual meeting on October 9. The Roger Williams Family Association held an evening meeting, "Thanksgiving Days of Yesteryears," on November 6. The Slater Stamp Collection was exhibited by the Rhode Island Philatelic Society at their meeting on November 18. Mrs. Albert L. Chaffin spoke on "Scenes of Lafayette's Visit on Old Staffordshire Pottery" for the Society of Colonial Dames on November 20.

At the suggestion of radio station WJAR Mr. Roelker and Mr. Monahon made two recordings, which were broadcast by Miss Betty Gunning on her Friendship Club program. The first of these talks described the Historical Society and its functions; the second took the listeners on a short radio tour of old Providence. These broadcasts aroused such an interest that Miss Gunning decided to make Rhode Island history a regular feature of her program. The series began on November 19 when Mr. Collins described the books and manuscripts in the Society's library. Since then he has spoken each Wednesday morning at nine o'clock on the WJAR Friendship Club program.

WJAR-TV is also aware of the value of Rhode Island history and has used items from the Society's collections on spot announcements between programs. On Thanksgiving Day Mr. Collins appeared on a special television show, described Rhode Island Thanksgivings of the past, and exhibited some of the household utensils from the Society's museum.

W. G. R.

## BOOK REVIEWS

[continued from p. 19]

"*The Gaspee Affair: A Study of Its Constitutional Significance*," by William R. Leslie.

The Mississippi Valley Historical Review (Cedar Rapids), Vol. XXXIX, No. 2 (September, 1952), pp. 233-256.

Mr. Leslie has published an extremely interesting and well-organized article on what he calls the "Constitutional Significance" of the burning of the schooner *Gaspee*. The legal problems which this event gave rise to are dealt with competently and clearly. They were part and parcel of the great events leading up to the Revolution. Mr. Leslie also notes, as to the expedition itself, that, although the *Gaspee* affair was three years before Lexington and Concord, "perhaps the musket ball which wounded Lieutenant William Dudingston, commander of the *Gaspee*, was really an earlier 'shot heard 'round the world.' "

The man who is supposed to have fired that shot was probably not thinking much at the time of legal and constitutional problems. According to Col. Ephraim Bowen, who was the last survivor of the expedition to Namquit Point (as it was then called), his friend, Joseph Bucklin, when he heard Dudingston hail their craft, said: "Ephe, reach me your gun, and I can kill that fellow." Dudingston fell (though not mortally wounded), and Bucklin exclaimed, according to Bowen, "I have killed the rascal." (See *A History of the Destruction of His Britannic Majesty's Schooner Gaspee* by John Russell Bartlett; [Providence: A. Crawford Greene, Printer to the State] 1861.) The men who burned the *Gaspee* were, in modern parlance, "fed up" with what they conceived to be the oppressive conduct of British officers enforcing British revenue laws. Violent legal measures were met with violent illegal measures.

The Privy Council arranged for the appointment by the Crown of a Commission of Inquiry with the charge of high treason as the basis for the investigation. This Commission was to "inquire into and report," not to hear and determine or to try the offenders. Behind all this lurked the possibility that the offenders, if caught, might be taken to England for trial. For, as Lord Mansfield said (quoted by Mr. Leslie on p. 254): "Things will never be right until some of them are brought over."

The local authorities assisted or purported to assist the Commission of Inquiry; but the Commission was unable to "obtain sufficient evidence to support the arrest and detention for trial of a single person" (p. 254).

How and by what means these offenders should be sought out and apprehended; how and where such offenders should be tried: these were questions going to the root of the British Colonial and Imperial System. When Mr. Leslie goes further and suggests that these problems had "a most important place in the conceptual development" of our own constitutional system—of Federal and state governments working side by side—one wonders if the author is not a little over-zealous in presenting that particular hypothesis.

WILLIAM H. EDWARDS

Providence

## TROUBLE AT THE CUSTOM HOUSE — 1790

SAMUEL SLATER'S TRUNK\*

Providence, 3d, 7th Mo. 1790

Respected Friend.

Samuel Slater having inform'd me, he had a Trunk of Clothing detained at New-york on Acct of the Duties and desired me to represent his case, that he may have them for Use without payment of Duties, Apprehending it coud never be the intention of Goverment as this is my Apprehention allso I am desireous the case may be considered in its propper light & therfore inform thee, That the yound [sic] man from the information he had meditated a Design to come to America to set up the Cotten Spining business by Water and as he was made Sensible if it was known he would be stopt, he came off without even his Own parents being acquainted with the Voyage he intended, he Arived at New york and being much Disappointed in finding the prospects he had form'd of the progress of Manufactures and that there was no Undertakeing of the kind he was Acquainted with there on hearing I had Erected some Mils Wrote me and proposed to Come, this way. I accordingly gave him an Invitation if he tho't Our small progress was woth his Attention. He came and has sence been Steadily Employed in Erecting and compleating the Business I had begun is now at Work Connected with Almy & Brown Murcht here to whom I had committed the Business, he appears to have come away Short of Clothing on Acct of the Secrecy he came in & tho' there is a Considerable of them for a Person of his Circumstances I believe they were designed for his own Use and that Indulgance of such importations Duty free will tend to Introduce Usefull Manefacturers much wanted in the Country and I hope it may be Consistant with thy Office to Relinquish the Duties and that they may be Deliverd to Capt Brown who is acquainted with the young mans coming her from New york and the business he came upon. Tho' I am a stranger if the facts wen Sufficient Assertain'd to thee will Warrant a Delivery of the Goods, I am well known by our members of the Sennate and Divers Murchts in New york Viz. Edmund Prior, Saml Franklin &c. I am Respectfully thy friend Moses Brown  
To Collector Custome House Officer New-york 7th Mo

\*This previously unpublished letter, which throws new light on the beginnings of the textile industry in America, is in the Moses Brown Papers, v. 7, p. 22.

**OFFICERS OF THE  
RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
*elected at the Annual Meeting, September 24, 1952*

M. Randolph Flather.....	president
Bruce M. Bigelow, Albert F. Lownes.....	vice presidents
Ivory Littlefield, Jr.....	secretary
Douglas W. Franchot.....	assistant secretary
Harold H. Kelly.....	treasurer
Kenneth N. Hill.....	assistant treasurer

**MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

Stanley Livingston, Jr., *chairman*  
 J. Austin Carroll  
 Mrs. George E. Comery  
 Duncan Langdon  
 H. Stanton Smith, Jr.

**COMMITTEE ON GROUNDS AND  
BUILDINGS**

Frederick P. Austin, Jr., *chairman*  
 Robert H. I. Goddard, Jr.  
 Houghton P. Metcalf, Jr.  
 Norman B. Smith  
 John C. B. Washburn

**LIBRARY COMMITTEE**

Mrs. Clifford K. Rathbone, *chairman*  
 Knight Edwards  
 Robert L. Knight, Jr.  
 Paul C. Nicholson, Jr.  
 Bradford F. Swan

**COMMITTEE ON NECROLOGY**  
 Benjamin L. Cook, Jr., *chairman*  
 Mrs. Axel A. Christensen  
 Mrs. Elsie Cushing Hurdis  
 G. Andrews Moriarty  
 Mrs. George C. Scott

**LECTURE COMMITTEE**

Henry D. Sharpe, *chairman*  
 Mrs. Colt Anthony  
 Miss Nancy A. Dyer  
 James L. Hanley  
 S. Rowland Morgan, Jr.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Harry B. Freeman, *chairman*  
 Stephen W. Carey, 3rd  
 Bayard Ewing  
 S. Foster Hunt  
 Charles B. Rockwell

**PUBLICATION COMMITTEE**

Paul C. Nicholson, *chairman*  
 Leonard Bacon  
 Francis H. Chafee, M.D.  
 Clarence H. Philbrick  
 Lawrence C. Wroth

**AUDIT COMMITTEE**

Henry B. Cross, *chairman*  
 F. Morris Cochran  
 Fred Piggott

Executive Committee is composed of the officers; chairmen of committees;  
 Richard LeBaron Bowen, Charles B. Mackinney and Addison P. Munroe,  
 members at large; Dr. Grace M. Sherwood and William G. Roelker,  
*ex officio.*

**REPORT OF THE TREASURER**  
1952

Your Treasurer presents his report for the year ending June 30, 1952.

Total Operating Receipts.....	\$29,969.02
Total Operating Disbursements.....	29,231.34

resulting in a surplus for the year ..... 737.68

The principal items of income are:

Dues .....	\$ 8,040.00
Income from Investments.....	7,460.22
State of Rhode Island .....	8,500.00
Contributions .....	4,892.00

The principal items of expense are:

Salaries .....	\$16,956.85
Publications .....	2,540.68
Light, Heat, etc. ....	2,066.27
Maintenance of Grounds and Buildings.....	2,389.04

The Balance Sheet of your Society on June 30, 1952 indicates:

Total Assets of .....	\$265,319.88
represented by	
Cash .....	\$ 9,350.27
Special Funds .....	10,301.50
Investments .....	137,466.78
Real Estate, Books and Manuscripts.....	100,006.00
Other Assets .....	8,195.33
	<hr/>
	\$265,319.88

Liabilities consisting of Special Funds, the income from which only is available to the Society amount to \$49,057.41, indicating the net worth of the Society on June 30, 1952 as \$216,262.47.

Respectfully submitted,

**HAROLD H. KELLY**

**BALANCE SHEET — June 30, 1952**

**ASSETS:**

Cash .....	\$ 9,350.27
Special Funds .....	10,301.50
Investments .....	137,466.78
John Brown House Fund .....	7,955.00
Real Estate, Books and Manuscripts.....	100,006.00
Accounts Receivable .....	240.33
	<hr/>
	\$265,319.88

## LIABILITIES:

Accounts Payable .....	\$ 832.65
John Brown House Fund Reserve .....	7,955.00
Sustaining Membership Reserve .....	1,000.00
Life Membership Reserve .....	5,750.00
Fireproof Library Building Reserve .....	502.00
John Brown Chariot Reserve .....	214.33
Library Book Fund Reserve .....	503.45
Wilbour Endowment .....	41,102.41
General Endowments .....	207,460.04
	<hr/> \$265,319.88

STATEMENTS OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS  
(For Year Ending June 30, 1952)

## INCOME

Dues .....	\$ 8,040.00
Securities Income: Dividends .....	\$6,249.16
Interest .....	1,211.06
	<hr/> 7,460.22
John Brown House Fund Income .....	166.56
State of Rhode Island Appropriation .....	8,500.00
Contributions: General .....	\$3,757.00
Corporate .....	1,135.00
	<hr/> 4,892.00
Patriotic Societies .....	350.00
Sale of Publications, Books, etc. ....	412.85
Miscellaneous Income .....	147.39
	<hr/> \$29,969.02

## EXPENSE

Salaries .....	\$16,956.85
Soc. Sec. Taxes .....	178.31
Director's Discretionary Fund .....	750.00
Supplies .....	521.35
Telephone .....	338.37
Membership Printing .....	478.74
Library Books, Periodicals, etc. ....	1,147.23
Lectures, Printing and Entertainment .....	354.94
Publications Printing and Postage .....	2,540.68
Heat, Light, and Housekeeping .....	2,066.27
Maintenance of Grounds .....	\$1,468.41
Buildings .....	920.63
	<hr/> 2,389.04
Insurance .....	852.71
Miscellaneous Expense .....	656.85
	<hr/> 29,231.34
	<hr/> \$737.68

HAROLD H. KELLY  
*Treasurer*

## ACCESSIONS

Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Willis Warner, *John Browne, Gentleman, of Wannamoisett.*

Gift of Mrs. John Nicholas Brown, ms. petition of Charles Bowler.

By purchase, First Congregational Church, Newport, Record Book, 1768-1770.

By purchase, *A Sketch of the Life of James Arminius* (Providence, 1793).

Gift of Lucien Wulsin, a pair of shoe buckles worn by Governor William Greene.

Gift of Wallace G. Maxon, a ms. account book of the sloop *Frederick Brown*, 1859-1865; collection of scarf pins.

Gift of Mrs. Earl R. Handy, Kenyon family manuscripts.

By purchase, Nathanael Greene, ALS 2p. Fredericksburg, Oct. 27, 1778; William Ellery, ALS 2p. January 8, 1794.

Gift of The Providence Shelter for Colored Children, Records of the Providence Shelter for Colored Children, 1870-1896.

By exchange, broadsides relating to Rhode Island lotteries, 1836-1844.

By purchase, water color of the bark *Colona*, painted by J. W. Pierce, 1870; ship's account book kept by Capt. Potter of the *Colona*.

Gift of Miss Harriet Edmonds, water color paintings of the brig *Arkansas* and the bark *Beaver*; Chinese carved mother of pearl fan.

By purchase, ms. account book of Hon. Stephen Hopkins *et al.*

By purchase, the ms. account book of Capt. Joseph Crawford of the sloop *Roby*.

Gift of Maxim Karolik, *The M. and M. Karolik Collection of American Paintings, 1815-1865.*

Genealogical material or genealogies of the following families have also been added to the library shelves: Abbe, Barker, Bartlett, Bishop, Chanler, Clopper, Collier, Corwin, Cotton, Cottrell, Crawford, Drake, Fowler, Garrett, Goodrich, Hammond, Hook, Howland, Janse, Jenkins, Jenks, Johnstone, Lamb, Law, Little, Magoun, Manser, Martin, Maull, Maverick, Milk, Mohler, Neff, Nichols, Norris, Noyes, Osgood, Pember-ton, Penhallow, Percy, Phinney, Pierson, Porter, Pratt, Randall, Ray, Ricker, Robinson, Rogers, Sage, Scammon, Spofford, Sprague, Stebbins, Stevens, Stevenson, Strang, Thomas, Thorne, Tinker, Townsend, Wells-Sellew.

LECTURES

January 14, 1953, Wednesday 8:15 p.m.

## **STATED MEETING**

## The Pequot Path

GEORGE L. MINER  
Author of *Angell's Lane*

February 8, 1953, Sunday 2:15 p.m.

## The Story of a River; the Woonasquatucket

**RONALD CLEMENT, Executive Director**

**Audubon Society of Rhode Island**

*Illustrated with kodaslides*

March 8, 1953, Sunday 2:15 p.m.

## Shade Trees of Our Ancestors

JACK W. CADDICK, Assistant Professor of Horticulture  
University of Rhode Island

April 8, 1953, Wednesday 8:15 p.m.

## STATED MEETING

## 125 Years of Business in Providence

WILLIAM G. CHAFFEE

### **Builders' Iron Foundry**

May 13, 1953, Wednesday 8:15 p.m.

## **History in Our Own Backyards**

WILLIAM D. METZ, Assistant Professor  
of History and Political Sciences  
University of Rhode Island

RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
NEW MEMBERS

July 1, 1952—November 30, 1952

Mrs. Roger E. Alcott  
Cumberland, R. I.  
Mr. Francis A. Barrett  
West Barrington, R. I.  
Mrs. Edward C. Bowen  
Pawtucket, R. I.  
Mr. Max Brodsky  
Dr. Edward Brown  
Mr. Edwin C. Brown  
Mr. Walter S. Bucklin  
Brookline, Mass.  
Mr. Norman L. Chace  
West Barrington, R. I.  
Mr. Albert J. Clarke  
Mr. Robert G. Cooke  
Rehoboth, Mass.  
Mr. Frederick L. Cote  
Mrs. Francis P. Davis  
Mr. Robert Spink Davis  
Mr. Eben Draper  
Wakefield, R. I.  
Mr. and Mrs. John H. Drury  
Mrs. John L. Easton  
Pawtucket, R. I.  
Mr. Robert F. Eddy  
Barrington, R. I.  
Mrs. L. Pierce Emerson  
Mr. Louis C. FitzGerald  
Mr. Linwood A. Gardiner  
Mr. Allan V. Gribbin  
Barrington, R. I.  
Miss Elizabeth R. Gunning  
Mr. John R. Hackett  
Miss Ruth M. Harrington  
Miss Jennie F. Hart  
East Providence, R. I.  
Mr. Elmer S. Horton  
Barrington, R. I.  
Mr. and Mrs. George W. Kelsey  
Mr. C. W. Knowles  
Warwick, R. I.  
Mr. Paul R. Ladd  
Mrs. William A. Leigh  
East Providence, R. I.  
Mr. George Albert Livesey  
Wakefield, R. I.  
Mr. Edward A. Lutz  
Mr. Charles R. Lynn  
Cranston, R. I.  
Dr. Charles F. McKivergan  
Mr. Ronald MacLeod  
Mr. William D. F. Morrisson  
Miss Mary C. Nelson  
Gladwyn, Pennsylvania  
Col. Daniel A. O'Connor  
Washington 16, D. C.  
Mr. Joseph H. O'Donnell  
Union Village, R. I.  
Mr. T. G. Ogburn, Jr.  
East Greenwich, R. I.  
Mrs. Ray B. Owen  
Barrington, R. I.  
Mr. David Patten  
Mr. Hamilton E. Pease  
Mr. Walter Perry, Jr.  
Barrington, R. I.  
Mr. Robert W. Shadd  
Mr. Edwin F. Sherman, Jr.  
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Bayley  
Sherman  
Mrs. Robert H. Simister  
Miss Barbara A. Smiley  
North Providence, R. I.  
Mr. and Mrs. Stanley H. Smith, Jr.  
Mr. C. George Taylor  
Rumford, R. I.  
Rev. Ralph L. Tucker  
East Providence, R. I.  
Mr. John O. Tragard  
Mrs. Tom C. Watkins  
Chatham, N. J.

